

Amendments to the Specification

Under the Title, Above Paragraph [0001], Add the Section Heading as follows:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

In Between Paragraphs [0001] and [0002], Replace the Section Heading as follows:

~~Prior Art~~ SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In Between Paragraphs [0002] and [0003], Delete the Section Heading as follows:

Advantages of the Invention

Replace Paragraph [0006] with the following Amended Paragraph:

[0006] ~~According to Claim 2~~In one embodiment, heat that is made available via the air conditioner cycle process is transferred via a refrigerant of the air conditioner through a coupling heat transfer medium to the coolant of the heat cycle of the engine. The heat transfer medium of the air conditioner can then be coupled in the process to the cooling circuit or the heating circuit of the heat cycle. Depending upon the type of design and control or regulation of the heat transfer medium of the air condition, additional valves such as mixing valves and control valves can be provided. In this regard, it is also possible to reverse the heat cycle of the air conditioner via planned air conditioner components in order to be able to use the air conditioner as a heat pump particularly in the case of low ambient temperatures, whereby the heat emitted by the heat pump is transferred in turn to the heat cycle of the engine in order to the heat the coolant that is circulating in it. As a result, this cycle can also be executed when the engine is at a standstill as an independent vehicle heater process. Due to the heating of the coolant, the temperature of the engine can be increased as a result before starting the combustion engine by the heated coolant being circulated through the engine. The result of this is that the engine heats up more quickly, thereby reducing emissions and fuel consumption from the moment the engine starts onward.

Replace Paragraph [0007] with the following Amended Paragraph:

[0007] According to an advantageous embodiment, ~~it is provided according to Claim 3 that~~ the heat transfer medium of the air conditioner can be circumvented via a bypass line. As a result, temperature regulation is possible at the heat transfer medium, because the heat yield in the heat transfer medium can be varied via the returned heat quantity of the medium flowing through the heat transfer medium. The bypass line is preferably attached via at least one suitable valve, which can be used to completely or partially open or close it so that the rate of flow is adjustable.

Replace Paragraph [0008] with the following Amended Paragraph:

[0008] Moreover, it is possible in accordance with an advantageous embodiment ~~according to Claim 4~~ to use the auxiliary heating device, which is provided to heat the ambient air flowing in the passenger compartment of the vehicle, to also heat the coolant.

In Between Paragraphs [00010] and [00011], Replace the Section Heading as follows:

~~Drawing~~ BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

In Between Paragraphs [00013] and [00014], Replace the Section Heading as follows:

~~Description of the Exemplary Embodiments~~ DETAILED DESCRIPTION